

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

October 16, 2012

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The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Ronald G. Sipkema, Charles L. Hamstra, H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, John T. Price and Stephen R. Jordan. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Donya G. Jordan; Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Deputy Auditor, Kimberly K. Grow; and Deputy Auditor, Barbara Robinson. Mr. Sipkema called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jordan.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries pointed out an error under the "Budget Public Hearing & 2013 Budget Adoption". The budget amount listed under the "Supplemental Public Defender" is incorrect. The correction will be made. Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting & 2013 Budget Adoption held on September 18, 2012 with the correction made. Mr. Hamstra seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / WEED BOARD BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Weed Board Budget, Personal Services was \$1,800.00 in Part-Time Help, \$50.00 in SS Medicare and \$150.00 in Social Security. Also advertised within the Weed Board Budget was \$1,000.00 in Supplies, Other Supplies for a total request of \$3,000.00. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2012-10A** as advertised. Mr. Hamstra seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROJECT INCOME: Advertised in Community Corrections Project Income, Supplies, Food is \$5,000.00. Bill Wakeland, Director, explained that there was \$24,000.00 appropriated within this line item; however, with the rising cost of food, we will be short by the time we get to the month of December. We are averaging a little over \$2,000.00 per month in food costs. Mr. Wakeland stated that they plan on using any extra money left over from the \$5,000.00 request to stock the shelves at the end of December. Mr. Hamstra made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2012-10B** as advertised. Mr. Bontreger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER REQUEST / PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: A request has been made to transfer \$400.00 from Supplies, Travel/Mileage to Other Services & Charges, Office Equipment within the County General Fund, Planning & Development Budget. Mary Scheurich, Director / Planning & Development, stated per letter that the transfer is necessary in an attempt to run her office more efficiently. Mr. Price made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER REQUEST / CORONER'S BUDGET: A request has been made to transfer \$2,400.00 from Other Services & Charges, Autopsy with \$1,000.00 going into Personal Services, Deputies; \$400.00 going into Supplies, Film & Developing and \$1,000.00 going into Other Services & Charges, Transport Fee. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TERBORG DISTRIBUTING, INC / TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: The ERA Advisory Panel met on October 11, 2012 to review a request to grant Terborg Distributing, Inc. a tax abatement on the construction of a 6,400 square foot, \$150,000.00 expansion to their existing 14,720 square foot facility. Minutes of the meeting along with a letter of recommendation were distributed to the Council for their review. The tax abatement request will be advertised for the November 20, 2012 Council meeting. Kevin Kelly, President / Jasper County Economic Development Organization, Inc, explained that the abatement was applied for in September. The Preliminary Resolution will be presented at the November meeting. The Declaratory Resolution will be presented at the December meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING / 2013 BUDGET ADOPTION: A public hearing was held at 7:30 p.m. to adopt the following budgets: Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, Iroquois Conservancy, Rensselaer Central School Corporation and Jasper County Airport Authority.

NORTHWEST INDIANA SOLID WASTE DISTRICT / 2013 BUDGET: Mrs. Jordan stated that this money does not come from tax dollars but rather from the landfill fees. The Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District serves six (6) counties. There was no public comment. Mr. Price made a motion to approve the 2013 budget in the total sum of \$868,143.00 for the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

IROQUOIS CONSERVANCY DISTRICT / 2013 BUDGET: Dale Lehe was present on behalf of the Iroquois Conservancy District. Mr. Lehe stated that the rate will be going down for 2013. Mrs. Jordan stated that the budget request for 2013 is \$322,550.00. She has figured the total tax rate at 0.0150 which would generate a total property tax levy of \$119,023.00. There was no public comment. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the 2013 budget in the total sum of \$322,550.00 for the Iroquois Conservancy District. Mr. Hamstra seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION / 2013 BUDGET: Ned Speicher, Superintendent, and Rich Ludington, Board Member, were present on behalf of the Rensselaer Central School Corporation. There was no public comment. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the 2013 budget request in the total sum of \$16,540,552.00. Mr. Bontreger seconded and the motion carried. Also voting in favor of the motion was Mr. DeVries, Mr. Stalbaum and Mr. Hamstra. There were no votes against the motion. Let the record show that Mr. Price did abstain due to the employment of a family member by the Rensselaer School Corporation.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY / 2013 BUDGET: Mr. Sipkema explained that the Council would be reviewing the Airport Authority budget line by line. Craig Jackson, Airport Authority Board Member, explained why the Council was given three different scenarios for their budget. A brief review was given for each scenario. John Sjaardema, Excel Air Services, wanted to make sure that everyone understands who he is now and how that will change significantly in January. Mr. Sjaardema is currently the manager at the airport as well as running his business from the facility. Come January, Mr. Sjaardema will no longer be the manager. This position will belong to a brand new person. It isn't so much as what I do but rather what is not getting done. What is not getting done is public relations development - working with corporations, working with businesses, getting out into the community and the county to make people understand the value and benefits of the Jasper County Airport. Mr. Price asked Mr. Sjaardema if his contract would be renegotiated in January? Will there be a new contract? Mr. Sjaardema replied "absolutely". Andy Andree, Airport Authority Board Member, stated that they have figured Mr. Sjaardema's payment in-kind is somewhere between \$25,000.00 - \$35,000.00 that cannot be seen on paper. The first line item within the budget addressed by the Council was the salary of the Airport Manager. After some discussion, Mr. Jordan proposed that the Council approve a salary of \$40,000.00 for the Airport Manager and \$10,000.00 for a Part-time employee. Mr. DeVries stated that he would lean more towards a salary of \$35,000.00 for the Airport Manager and \$5,000.00 for a part-time employee. Mr. Bontreger suggested splitting the difference with a \$40,000.00 salary for the manager and \$5,000.00 for part-time. At this time, Mr. Sipkema requested a motion. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve \$40,000.00 for the Airport Manager's salary and \$10,000.00 for the part-time help. Mr. Bontreger seconded the motion. Mr. Price voted in favor of the motion. Mr. DeVries and Mr. Hamstra voted against the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3-2. Let the record show that Mr. Stalbaum abstained. Discussion took place in regards to the "Rotary Fuel Fund". Mr. Sipkema requested an explanation for the line items for "Matching funds for projects for 2011" in the amount of \$18,585.00, "Matching funds for 2012" in the amount of \$12,500.00, and "Matching funds for 2013" in the amount of \$12,500.00. Craig Jackson, Aviation Authority Board Member, explained that the airport received a grant in 2011 for Phase I of a drainage project. Phase II of the drainage project is in 2012. These two projects totaled \$450,000.00. The amount requested is to cover the matching portion of the grant. The amount requested for 2013 is to cover the matching portion of a \$150,000.00 grant that will be used for an environmental study for the east/west runway.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY / 2013 BUDGET CON'T: At this time, the public was given a chance to speak. In response to a question from James Ahrendt, audience member, Mr. Jackson replied that the airport has never received grant money for repair and maintenance. The FAA will give you money to do initial construction; however, they will not give you any money to do repair and maintenance on existing structures.

After some discussion, Paige Sansone, HJ Umbaugh, stated that the simplest way to figure the increase is to increase your current tax liability by 1.5%. Mr. Jackson stated that the Cumulative Building Fund, which has already been approved by the DLGF as part of the rate, was .0033. Based on the 2012 assessed valuation, this would amount to \$77,000.00. We have proposed using those funds as a debt service on two projects – a two (2) 10,000 gallon tank fuel farm and a nine (9) bay t-hanger. Mr. Stalbaum asked if there was an estimated cost for the nine (9) bay hanger? Mr. Jackson replied that when you consider the cost of the actual construction of the hanger, the apron and the taxiway that will have to be put around it; you're looking at an approximate cost of \$450,000.00. We are anticipating charging rent in the neighborhood of \$200.00 per month. Mr. Sipkema stated that the one thing he is hearing over and over is why are the taxpayers building hangers for private planes? That is where the problem is. Mr. Price stated that he feels that we need to do something on the fuel; however, I think we need to specify that none of the funds should be used for hangers until there is an actual plan. Mr. Sipkema suggested that the Council address the "Fuel Farm" and "Hangers" as two separate items. In response to a question from Mr. Stalbaum regarding the fuel farm, Mr. Jackson replied that they have received a quote from a firm out of Southern Indiana. This quote was backed up by our engineering firm; therefore, we feel pretty confident that the \$450,000.00 is what it is going to take to get rid of the old equipment and have new installed. The quote included two (2) separate tanks and a credit card processing machine. The request is for \$36,400.00 per year based on a 15-year amortization schedule. In regards to the hangers, Mr. Andree stated that he is aware that the Council is against this; however, he would like for them to consider at least half of the amount requested. The infrastructure and taxiways still need to be put in by the Airport Authority. Mr. Price asked if this is something that grant money could be used for? Tim Curless, Airport Authority Board Member, replied that if you take grant money for this type of project, you are saying that you don't need grant money for anything else. Mr. Jackson stated that if you accept FAA grant money for any kind of a revenue generating project (hanger, taxiways leading to hangers or terminal buildings), you are saying to the federal government that you are done with all of the structure (runways and lighting). After further discussion, it was agreed to approve the requested \$36,400.00 to be used towards the infrastructure; however, none of this money is to be used towards debt service. Mr. DeVries stated that we (Council) have the responsibility on our shoulders to represent and be the voice of some 33,478 people – not just 24 who fly airplanes. Since the year 2000, the average general expenses have been \$69,122.00. If we add in the project expenses as well, that average rises to \$108,938.00. In the years for which I have a record and for which actual tax revenue was provided to the airport fund (which is through 2005), the average revenue from general property taxes was \$125,633.00. The information received from the airport board shows a projected expense for 2012, excluding any fuel purchases, to be \$118,880.00. The DLGF has recommended to us that for 2013, a limit for the growth quotient be 2.8%. We have reviewed every county sub-unit's budget and have been very diligent in holding the line on that. I see no reason why we should deviate from this in regards to the airport. In that case, the 2.8% increase applied to the expenses of 2012 of the \$118,880.00 would bring this to a maximum level of \$122,209.00. Mr. DeVries would recommend that amount as a budget figure for 2013. Mr. DeVries stated that, on top of that, we should then consider some additional funding using some of the surplus funds that we have in our county coffers. Mr. DeVries also suggested that the Airport Authority be changed to five (5) members. Mr. Jordan stated, in reference to Mr. DeVries discussion, that he does believe that we are not allowed to use general funds to go towards the Airport Authority. Once the Airport Authority was formed, general funds could not be used to supplement them. They will be on their own after January 1. The only money that they can receive is the tax rate that we are going to set for them.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY / 2013 BUDGET CON'T: Upon request, Mrs. Jordan stated that the total operating fund is \$345,638.00. That total does include the \$100,375.00 in the Rotary Fuel Fund. For the Cumulative Building Fund, the amount is \$72,800.00. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the \$345,638.00 operating budget and \$72,800.00 Cumulative Building Fund budget. Mr. Bontreger seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 4-2. Along with Mr. Jordan and Mr. Bontreger, Mr. Hamstra and Mr. Stalbaum voted in favor. Mr. DeVries and Mr. Price voted against.

At this time, there was a short break.

Mrs. Jordan reported that the total budget for the Airport Authority is \$418,438.00. Their property tax levy will be \$318,063.00 with a tax rate of 0.0141.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hamstra seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ronald G. Sipkema, President

ATTEST:

Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County

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